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(54) **GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR THE CONVERSION OF LOYALTY POINTS VIA A LOYALTY POINT WEBSITE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57)   **ABSTRACT**

In one embodiment, a graphical user interface includes a conversion option to convert at least a subset of non-negotiable credits earned from one into entity independent funds in accordance with a conversion ratio. The entity independent funds are accepted by a commerce partner as at least partial payment for goods or services provided by the commerce partner. In absence of converting the non-negotiable credits into entity independent funds, the commerce partner does not accept the non-negotiable credits as payment for goods or services. Responsive to a received selection of the conversion option, the computer presents within the graphical user interface a quantity of available entity independent funds for use as payment for the goods or services provided by the commerce partner. The quantity of available entity independent funds results from converting the subset of non-negotiable credits into the quantity of available entity independent funds in accordance with the conversion ratio.

20 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

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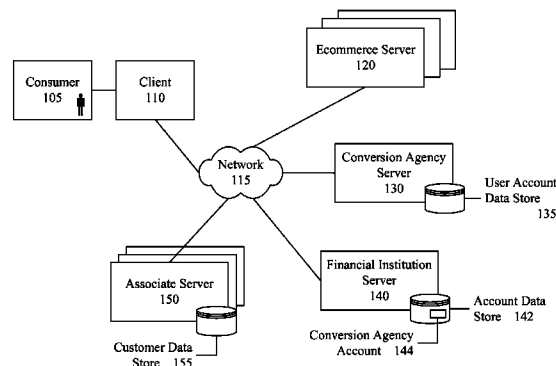
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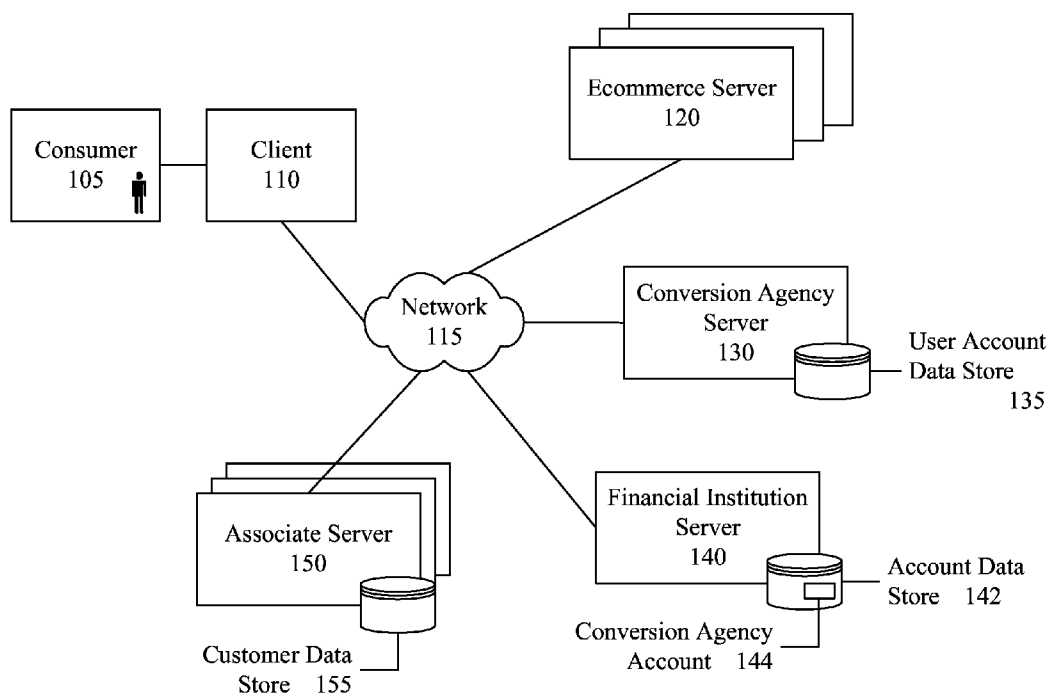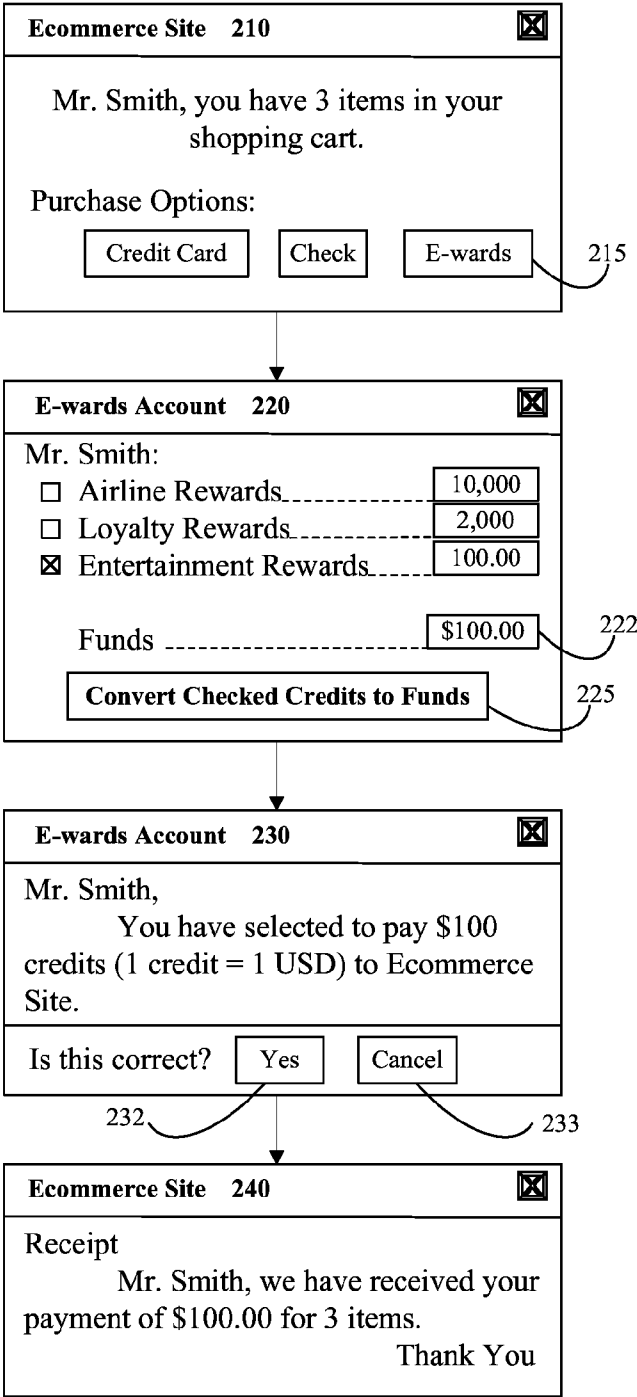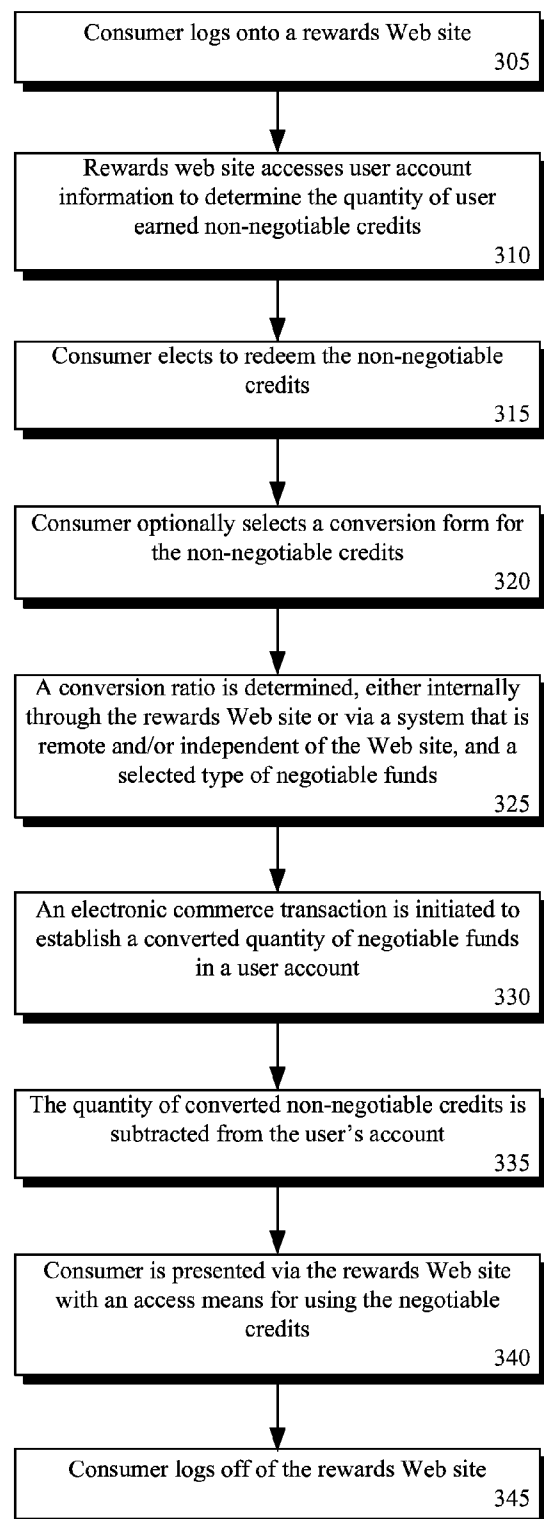**FIG. 1**

200

Ecommerce Site   210   ☒

Mr. Smith, you have 3 items in your
shopping cart.

Purchase Options:

| Credit Card | Check | E-wards |

215

↓

E-wards Account   220   ☒

Mr. Smith:
☐ Airline Rewards _____ | 10,000 |
☐ Loyalty Rewards _____ | 2,000 |
☒ Entertainment Rewards _____ | 100.00 |

Funds _____ | $100.00 | 222

| **Convert Checked Credits to Funds** | 225

↓

E-wards Account   230   ☒

Mr. Smith,
        You have selected to pay $100
credits (1 credit = 1 USD) to Ecommerce
Site.

Is this correct? | Yes | | Cancel |

232   233

↓

Ecommerce Site   240   ☒

Receipt
        Mr. Smith, we have received your
payment of $100.00 for 3 items.
                                    Thank You

FIG. 2

_300_

```
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│   Consumer logs onto a rewards Web site│
│                                    305 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Rewards web site accesses user account│
│  information to determine the quantity of user│
│       earned non-negotiable credits    │
│                                    310 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Consumer elects to redeem the non-negotiable│
│                  credits               │
│                                    315 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Consumer optionally selects a conversion form for│
│        the non-negotiable credits      │
│                                    320 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  A conversion ratio is determined, either internally│
│  through the rewards Web site or via a system that is│
│  remote and/or independent of the Web site, and a│
│       selected type of negotiable funds│
│                                    325 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  An electronic commerce transaction is initiated to│
│  establish a converted quantity of negotiable funds│
│              in a user account         │
│                                    330 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  The quantity of converted non-negotiable credits is│
│       subtracted from the user's account│
│                                    335 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Consumer is presented via the rewards Web site│
│  with an access means for using the negotiable│
│                  credits               │
│                                    340 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
                  │
                  ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
│  Consumer logs off of the rewards Web site│
│                                    345 │
└──────────────────────────────────────┘
```

FIG. 3

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GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR THE CONVERSION OF LOYALTY POINTS VIA A LOYALTY POINT WEBSITE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/532,342 now issued U.S. Pat. No. 8,297,502 titled "User Interface For the Exchange of Non-Negotiable Credits For Entity Independent Funds", which was a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 7,703,673, which was filed on May 25, 2006. U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,297,502 and 7,703,673 have been issued and are not presently pending.

Our claim to the priority date is through pending U.S. application Ser. No. 13/681,479 and U.S. application Ser. No. 13/681,493, which are continuation-in-part applications that claim the benefit of U.S. Pat. No. 8,342,399 and U.S. Pat. No. 8,376,224, which were pending at the time of filing these two applications.

U.S. Pat. No. 8,376,224 is a continuation-in-part application claiming the benefit of U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,703,673; 8,123,127; and 8,162,209, which were pending at the time of the filing of this patent.

U.S. Pat. No. 8,342,399 is a continuation-in-part application claiming the benefit of U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,703,673; 8,123,127; and 8,162,209, which were pending at the time of the filing of this patent.

Thus, there is a continuous chain of active pending U.S. cases from the co-pending applications back to U.S. Pat. No. 7,703,673, which was filed on May 25, 2006, which the present case is a continuation of—hence claiming the benefit of priority to this case (U.S. Pat. No. 7,703,673) is proper.

BACKGROUND

The present disclosure relates to the field of graphical user interfaces for exchanging non-negotiable credits for entity independent funds.

Entities often reward consumers for utilizing their services with non-negotiable credits, such as frequent flier miles, consumer loyalty points, and entertainment credits. These non-negotiable credits can be applied towards products and/or services provided by a granting entity or its affiliates. For example, consumers can apply frequent flyer credits towards the purchase of airline tickets or airline upgrades. In another example, a consumer can utilize purchase points from a credit card company to receive percentage discounts on goods provided by affiliates. In still another example, entertainment credits can be redeemed for prizes offered in a winnings storefront of an entertainment site.

Many problems are inherent to the current techniques for the redemption of entity provided credits. One such problem is the restriction on usage to goods and/or services of the entity. That is, a consumer may have no need for the products or services listed by the entity for which the non-negotiable credits can be redeemed. Further, additional restrictions and limitations can be placed upon the non-negotiable credits that lessen the usefulness of non-negotiable credits from the consumer's perspective. For instance, airlines often limit the choice of travel dates, known as black-out dates, to which frequent flyer credits can be applied.

Another problem encountered by consumers when redeeming non-negotiable credits is time. Once a consumer submits a request to redeem their non-negotiable credits, the consumer must wait for the entity to perform one or more actions required to fulfill their request. These steps often

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require days or weeks to complete. For instance, consumers participating in online entertainment sites often are required to wait a minimum of three days for their entertainment credits to be redeemed. Redemption delay can be particularly aggravating to e-commerce consumers, who by nature of an e-commerce marketplace expect rapid responses and immediate consumer gratification.

Time can also be a factor for redeeming credits having an associated expiration date. A consumer's non-negotiable credits may expire before a sufficient quantity is acquired for a desired purchase. Lesser purchases requiring fewer credits may not have a significant appeal for the consumer. Hence, credit expiration dates can further decrease the consumer value of non-negotiable credits.

Yet another problem with conventional implementation of non-negotiable credits is that consumers often belong to multiple credit-earning programs that provide the consumers with multiple incompatible forms of non-negotiable credit. Each of these multiple programs can span a single industry or can span multiple industries. For example, a consumer can acquire a moderate number of frequent flyer miles with multiple airlines, where each airline specific account contains insufficient credits to have any meaningful consumer value. Consumers can also have many different types of non-negotiable credits, such as multiple merchant specific credit, credit card credits, and frequent flier miles, each having different redemption values and program redemption rules. These different programs, values, and rules can understandably confuse and frustrate consumers, who due to their confusion, often elect to avoid participating in an entity sponsored credit program.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of successive GUIs that illustrate the Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a method for the Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure permits consumers to transform non-negotiable credits provided by an entity to negotiable funds in an approximately immediate fashion using the Web. More specifically, a conversion agency can function as an intermediary that converts entity provided credits into entity independent funds. The conversion agency can be an independent entity that is not directly affiliated with the credit providing entities.

The conversion can occur automatically using a Web initiated action and can have approximately immediate results. Approximately immediate as used herein can signify that a transaction can occur within a single Web session with user acceptable delay tolerances, typically under half an hour and often under a few minutes. In one embodiment, credits can be automatically converted to funds as part of an e-commerce

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checkout. In another embodiment, credits can be converted into a user accessible account held with a financial institution.

The present disclosure can be implemented in accordance with numerous aspects consistent with material presented herein. For example, one aspect of the present disclosure can include a method for converting credits to funds. The method can include a step of a Web site receiving user identification information. Non-negotiable credits can be identified that are associated with an entity with which the user has previously interacted. The previous interactions could have earned the non-negotiable credits. Responsive to a user request, a conversion agency can convert a quantity of the non-negotiable credits into a quantity of negotiable funds. The conversion agency can be an agency not directly associated with the entity. The user can be permitted to access the quantity of negotiable funds. The quantity of negotiable funds can be applied to user specified purchases. At least a portion of the purchases can involve at least one vender that does not honor the non-negotiable credits.

Another aspect of the present disclosure can include a software method for converting non-negotiable credits into negotiable funds. The method can receive a user request to convert a quantity of non-negotiable credits held in a user account associated with an entity. A conversion rate between the non-negotiable credits available to the user and a form of negotiable funds can be automatically determined. A quantity of non-negotiable credits can be automatically subtracted from the user account. A quantity of the negotiable funds based upon the determined conversion rate and quantity of subtracted funds can be automatically transferred to a financial account. The financial account can be an account that is not associated with the entity. The entire method can occur in an approximately immediate fashion.

Still another aspect of the present disclosure can include a Web-based credit to fund conversion system. The system can include a non-negotiable credit account, a negotiable funds account, and a conversion agency. The non-negotiable credit account can be associated with an entity. Non-negotiable credits contained within the non-negotiable credit account can be earned though previous interactions between a user and the entity. The negotiable funds account can include negotiable funds that the user is able to apply to user specified e-commerce purchases. One or more venders involved in the e-commerce purchases can be venders that do not honor the non-negotiable credits for the e-commerce purchases. The conversion agency can automatically and approximately immediately convert a quantity of credits from the non-negotiable credit account to a quantity of funds in the negotiable funds account responsive to a request from the user.

It should be noted that various aspects of the disclosure can be implemented as a program for controlling computing equipment to implement the functions described herein, or a program for enabling computing equipment to perform processes corresponding to the steps disclosed herein. This program may be provided by storing the program in a magnetic disk, an optical disk, a semiconductor memory, or any other recording medium. The program can also be provided as a digitally encoded signal conveyed via a carrier wave. The described program can be a single program or can be implemented as multiple subprograms, each of which interact within a single computing device or interact in a distributed fashion across a network space.

It should also be noted that the methods detailed herein can also be methods performed at least in part by a service agent and/or a machine manipulated by a service agent in response to a service request.

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system 100 in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein. System 100 includes consumer 105 and conversion agency server 130.

Consumer 105 interacts with conversion agency server 130 via client 110. Client 110 can be any of a variety of interfaces including, but not limited to, another human being, a personal computer, a kiosk, a graphical user interface (GUI), a Web page, a telephone, a personal data assistant (PDA), a mobile phone, and the like.

Client 110 can operate in a stand-alone fashion. Alternatively, client 110 can be a device that cooperatively participates in a network of distributed computing devices. Client 110 can also be another human being utilizing an alternate form of Client 110 to access conversion agency server 130 via network 115. Network 115 can facilitate data exchanges over wireless as well as line-based communication pathways and protocols.

Both consumer 105 and conversion agency server 130 can interact with associate server 150, e-commerce server 120, and financial institution server 140 via network 115. Conversion agency server 130 includes user account data store 135 in which consumer 105 is a member. Associate server 150 includes customer data store 155 in which consumer 105 is a member. Financial institution server 140 includes account data store 142. Account data store 142 includes conversion agency account 144 corresponding to conversion agency 130.

Consumer 105 earns non-negotiable credits from associate server 150. The quantity of these non-negotiable credits is saved in customer data store 155. The method in which consumer 105 earns credits can be any of a variety of activities including, but not limited to, making online purchases, making in-store purchases, playing online games, participating in online games of chance, participating in surveys, and the like. Consumer 105 uses conversion agency server 130 to convert the non-negotiable credits from associate server 150 into negotiable funds provided by e-commerce server 120 or financial institution 140. In one embodiment, conversion agency 130 can include multiple reward accounts of consumer 105.

For example, consumer 105 earns five hundred credits from participating in an online game of chance hosted by associate server 150. Consumer 105 can choose to use conversion agency 130 to convert any or all of these credits to a monetary equivalent. Conversion agency 130 withdraws the necessary amount from conversion agency account 144 contained within the account data store 142 of financial institution 140 and transfers it to an account specified by consumer 105. In another example, consumer 105 uses conversion agency 130 to complete a purchase at e-commerce server 120. Again, conversion agency 130 withdraws the necessary amount from conversion agency account 144 contained within the account data store 142 of financial institution 140 and transfers it to the account of e-commerce server 120.

E-commerce server 120 can be any Web site that supports online purchases of goods or services. In one embodiment, e-commerce server 120 can include a distinct payment option for conversion agency 130. This distinct payment option could process the conversion of credits through their Web site. Alternatively, the distinct payment option could launch an application to process the conversion of credit that is separate from their Web site. In another embodiment, associate server 150 can act as e-commerce server 120.

Financial institution server 140 can be any of a variety of entities including, but not limited to, a bank, a credit card

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company, an investment firm, and the like. In one embodiment, financial institution server **140** can reside in the same country as consumer **105** and/or associate server **150**. In another embodiment, financial institution server **140** can reside in a country other than that of consumer **105** and/or associate server **150**.

FIG. **2** is a schematic diagram of successive GUIs that illustrate the Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system **200** in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

GUI **210** can be a checkout window from any e-commerce site. GUI **210** includes payment button **215**. Payment button **215** can represent a payment option that includes the conversion of non-negotiable credits to purchase the items in the shopping cart. Selection of payment button **215** by a user can produce GUI **220**.

GUI **220** can be a display window from a conversion agency. GUI **220** includes display box **222** and button **225**. GUI **220** can be rendered by any of a variety of means including, but not limited to, a Web browser, a JAVA applet, a PERL script, and the like. In one embodiment, GUI **220** can be contained within the e-commerce site. GUI **220** can display the balance of non-negotiable credits from one or more reward programs. GUI **220** contains a means by which the user selects the type of non-negotiable credits to convert including, but not limited to, a set of radio buttons, a set of checkboxes, a highlighting mechanism, and the like. Display box **222** can display the monetary value of the selected non-negotiable credits. The value displayed in display box **222** can be based on preset conversion factors. Button **225** can represent the initiation of the process by which the selected non-negotiable credits are converted to negotiable funds. Selection of button **225** by a user can produce GUI **230**.

GUI **230** can be a display window from a conversion agency. GUI **230** includes yes button **232** and cancel button **233**. GUI **230** can be rendered by any of a variety of means including, but not limited to, a Web browser, a JAVA applet, a PERL script, and the like. In one embodiment, GUI **230** can be contained within the e-commerce site. GUI **230** can display a summary message of the transaction initiated by GUI **220**. GUI **230** can include a means to continue the transaction, yes button **232**, and a means to cancel the transaction, cancel button **233**. Selection of cancel button **233** by a user cancels the transaction and can return the user to GUI **220**. Selection of yes button **232** by a user completes the transaction initiated in GUI **220** and can produce GUI **240**.

GUI **240** can be a display window from the same said e-commerce site. GUI **240** can contain a message acknowledging the successful conversion of the user's non-negotiable credits into negotiable funds for the purchase of the items in the shopping cart.

FIG. **3** is a flow chart of a method **300** for the Web based conversion of non-negotiable credits associated with an entity to entity independent funds system in accordance with an embodiment of the inventive arrangements disclosed herein.

Method **300** can begin in step **305**, where a consumer logs onto a rewards Web site. In step **310**, the rewards Web site utilizes the user information provided in step **305** to access the consumer's account information and display the amount of non-negotiable credits in the consumer's account. The consumer elects to redeem some quantity of non-negotiable credits in step **315**. If supported by the rewards Web site, step **320** can occur in which the consumer can select the form of negotiable funds to convert the non-negotiable credits. In step **325**, a ratio is determined for the conversion of the non-negotiable credits to the selected type of negotiable funds.

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This ratio can be determined by any of a variety of means including, but not limited to, an algorithm internal to the rewards Web site, an algorithm contained in a system that is remote and/or independent of the rewards Web site, and the like. An electronic commerce transaction is initiated in step **330** to establish the converted amount of negotiable funds in a user account. The quantity of converted non-negotiable credits is subtracted from the user's account in step **335**. In step **340**, the rewards Web site presents the consumer with an access means for the negotiable funds. Lastly, the consumer terminates the session by logging off the rewards Web site in step **345**.

The present disclosure may be realized in hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. The present disclosure may be realized in a centralized fashion in one computer system or in a distributed fashion where different elements are spread across several interconnected computer systems. Any kind of computer system or other apparatus adapted for carrying out the methods described herein is suited. A typical combination of hardware and software may be a general purpose computer system with a computer program that, when being loaded and executed, controls the computer system such that it carries out the methods described herein.

The present disclosure also may be embedded in a computer program product, which comprises all the features enabling the implementation of the methods described herein, and which when loaded in a computer system is able to carry out these methods. Computer program in the present context means any expression, in any language, code or notation, of a set of instructions intended to cause a system having an information processing capability to perform a particular function either directly or after either or both of the following: a) conversion to another language, code or notation; b) reproduction in a different material form.

This disclosure may be embodied in other forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof. Accordingly, reference should be made to the following claims, rather than to the foregoing specification, as indicating the scope of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

a computer serving a set of one or more Web pages for a loyalty program of an entity to one or more remotely located client machines, wherein the Web pages are able to be rendered within a client-side browser as a graphical user interface on the one or more client machines, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser said graphical user interface shows a quantity of non-negotiable credits, wherein said non-negotiable credits are loyalty points of the loyalty program possessed by a member, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser the graphical user interface comprises a conversion option to convert at least a subset of the shown non-negotiable credits into a quantity entity independent funds, wherein said entity independent funds are different loyalty points of a different loyalty program of a commerce partner, wherein said entity independent funds are possessed by the member, wherein an agreement exists between the entity and the commerce partner, wherein the agreement permits members to convert the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds in accordance with a fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio, wherein the agreement specifies that the entity is to compensate the commerce partner in an agreed upon amount of cash or credit for conversions of non-negotiable credits to entity inde-

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pendent funds, wherein said agreed upon amount is a multiple of a quantity of converted non-negotiable credits, wherein the entity independent funds are redeemable per the different loyalty program for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services, wherein the commerce partner is not said entity, wherein in absence of being converted the non-negotiable credits are not accepted as payment for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services;

the computer responsive to receiving a message indicating a selection of the conversion option, processing the selection to effectuate changes in the served set of Web pages; and

responsive to the processing, the computer serving one or more Web pages or Web page updates that include the effectuated changes to the one or more remotely located client machines, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser the graphical user interface is updated with the effectuated changes, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows a reduced quantity of non-negotiable credits possessed by the member in the loyalty program, said reduced quantity resulting at least in part from the subset of non-negotiable credits being converted into the quantity of entity independent funds in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows a quantity of entity independent funds resulting from converting the subset of non-negotiable credits into the quantity of entity independent funds in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows a quantity of available entity independent funds possessed by the member for use as payment for the goods or services provided by the commerce partner, said quantity of available entity independent funds including an amount resulting from the conversion operation.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the entity charges the member a fee for converting the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds, wherein the fee is specified in terms-of-use of the loyalty program.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the entity imposes a lower threshold on the quantity of non-negotiable credits able to be converted via conversion option the Web pages, wherein the lower threshold is greater than one hundred non-negotiable credits.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the loyalty program of the entity is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program, wherein the different loyalty program of the commerce partner is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer serves the set of one or more Web pages, processes the selection, and serves the one or more Web pages or Web page updates that include the effectuated changes within a single user-interactive Web session.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the entity has contractual agreements with a plurality of different commerce partners establishing different agreed upon conversion ratios and different compensation amounts owed by the entity to the different commerce partners for exchanging non-negotiable credits of the loyalty program for funds of loyalty programs of the different commerce partners, wherein said Web pages when rendered within the graphical user interface show the different agreed upon conversion ratios to the member.

9. A method comprising:

a computer serving a set of one or more Web pages for a different loyalty program of an commerce partner to one

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or more remotely located client machines, wherein the Web pages are able to be rendered within a client-side browser as a graphical user interface on the one or more client machines, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser said graphical user interface shows a quantity of entity independent funds, wherein said entity independent funds are different loyalty points of the different loyalty program possessed by a member, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser the graphical user interface comprises

a conversion option to convert at least a subset of non-negotiable credits into a quantity of the entity independent funds, wherein said non-negotiable credits are loyalty points of a loyalty program of an entity, wherein said non-negotiable credits are possessed by the member, wherein an agreement exists between the entity and the commerce partner, wherein the agreement permits members to convert the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds in accordance with a fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio, wherein the agreement specifies that the entity is to compensate the commerce partner in an agreed upon amount of cash or credit for conversions of non-negotiable credits to entity independent funds, wherein said agreed upon amount is a multiple of a quantity of converted non-negotiable credits, wherein the entity independent funds are redeemable per the different loyalty program for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services, wherein the commerce partner is not said entity, wherein in absence of being converted the non-negotiable credits are not accepted as payment for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services;

the computer responsive to receiving a message indicating a selection of the conversion option, processing the selection to effectuate changes in the served set of Web pages; and

responsive to the processing, the computer serving one or more Web pages or Web page updates that include the effectuated changes to the one or more remotely located client machines, wherein upon being rendered within the client-side browser the graphical user interface is updated with the effectuated changes, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows an increased quantity of entity independent funds possessed by the member, said increased quantity resulting at least in part from the subset of non-negotiable credits being converted into the quantity of entity independent funds in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows a quantity of non-negotiable credits expended as a result of converting the subset of non-negotiable credits into the quantity of entity independent funds in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the updated graphical user interface shows a quantity of available non-negotiable credits, said quantity of available non-negotiable credits representing an amount remaining after converting the subset of non-negotiable credits in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the commerce partner charges the member a fee for converting the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds, wherein the fee is specified in terms-of-use of the different loyalty program.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the commerce partner imposes a lower threshold on the quantity of non-negotiable

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credits able to be converted via conversion option the Web pages, wherein the lower threshold is greater than one hundred non-negotiable credits.

14. The method of claim **9**, wherein the loyalty program of the entity is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program, and wherein the different loyalty program of the commerce partner is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program.

15. The method of claim **9**, wherein the computer serves the set of one or more Web pages, processes the selection, and serves the one or more Web pages or Web page updates that include the effectuated changes within a single user-interactive Web session.

16. The method of claim **9**, wherein the commerce partner has contractual agreements with a plurality of different entities establishing different agreed upon conversion ratios and different compensation amounts owed by the different entities to the commerce partner for exchanging non-negotiable credits of the different entities for entity independent funds of the commerce partner, wherein said Web pages when rendered within the graphical user interface show the different agreed upon conversion ratios to the member.

17. A method comprising:

a computer, comprising hardware, presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display to a service agent and/or a machine manipulated by the service agent, wherein the service agent is a human agent authorized to act on behalf of an entity or a commerce partner, said graphical user interface showing a quantity of non-negotiable credits, wherein said non-negotiable credits are loyalty points of a loyalty program of the entity, wherein said shown quantity of non-negotiable credits are possessed by a member, wherein said shown quantity of non-negotiable credits were previously earned through previous interactions involving the loyalty program, the graphical user interface comprising a conversion option to convert at least a subset of the shown non-negotiable credits into a quantity entity independent funds, wherein said entity independent funds are different loyalty points of a different loyalty program of the commerce partner, wherein said entity independent funds are possessed by the member, wherein an agreement exists between the entity and the commerce partner, wherein the agreement permits the service agent to convert the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds in accordance

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with a fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio, wherein the agreement specifies that the entity is to compensate the commerce partner in an agreed upon amount of cash or credit for conversions of non-negotiable credits to entity independent funds, wherein said agreed upon amount is a multiple of a quantity of converted non-negotiable credits, wherein the entity independent funds are redeemable per the different loyalty program for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services, wherein the commerce partner is not said entity, wherein in absence of being converted the non-negotiable credits are not accepted as payment for commerce partner goods or for commerce partner services;

the computer receiving a selection of the conversion option; and

responsive to the received selection being processed, the computer presenting within the graphical user interface a reduced quantity of non-negotiable credits possessed by the member, said reduced quantity resulting at least in part from converting the subset of non-negotiable credits into the quantity of entity independent funds in accordance with the fixed credits-to-funds conversion ratio.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein the computer charges the member a fee for converting the non-negotiable credits to the entity independent funds, wherein the fee is specified in terms-of-use of the loyalty program or is specified in terms-of-use of the different loyalty program.

19. The method of claim **17**, wherein the loyalty program is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program, wherein the different loyalty program is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program, wherein the computer presents the graphical user interface, receives the selection of the conversion option, and presents the reduced quantity of non-negotiable funds a single user-interactive session involving the computer and the service agent.

20. The method of claim **17**, wherein the service agent is an employee of an airline, a hotel, a credit card company, or of a company providing customer service for the loyalty program or for the different loyalty program, wherein the loyalty program is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program, and wherein the different loyalty program is an airline, hotel, or credit card loyalty program.

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